

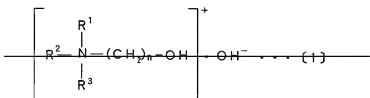
LISTING OF CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please cancel claims 5, 15, and 16 and amend claims 8 and 11 as follows.

1 – 7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method for preventing corrosion of metal in an atmospheric distillation column for petroleum refining process, comprising:

preparing a quaternary ammonium compound described by general formula [1] below:



in which R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are the same or different hydrocarbon radicals with 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and n is an integer between 1 and 10 ((β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide, and

adding only the quaternary ammonium compound ((β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide) to fluid containing water which contacts the inside of the atmospheric distillation column for petroleum refining process such that a pH value thereof at the top line of the atmospheric distillation column is 5.5 - 6.5, thereby reacting the ((β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide with magnesium chloride and calcium chloride contained within the fluid to produce (β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydrochloride and preventing corrosion of the metal and formation of hydrogen chloride.

9 – 10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting formation of hydrogen chloride in a crude oil atmospheric distillation unit, comprising:

preparing (β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide; and

adding only the (β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide to the desalted crude oil in between a crude oil desalter and a main distillation column in the crude oil atmospheric distillation unit, thereby reacting the (β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide with magnesium chloride and calcium chloride contained within the desalted crude oil to produce (β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydrochloride and preventing corrosion of the metal and formation of hydrogen chloride.

12. (Original) The method for inhibiting formation of hydrogen chloride in a crude oil atmospheric distillation unit according to Claim 11, wherein the (β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide content is controlled to 0.1 - 5 times by molar equivalent the salts content in the desalted crude oil.

13. (Original) The method for inhibiting formation of hydrogen chloride in a crude oil atmospheric distillation unit according to Claim 11, wherein the chloride ion concentration or pH of the condensed water in the main distillation unit is measured, and the (β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide content is controlled based on the measurement results.

14. (Original) The method for inhibiting formation of hydrogen chloride in a crude oil atmospheric distillation unit according to Claim 11, wherein the (β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide content is controlled such that the chloride ion concentration (sodium chloride conversion) of the overhead receiver water is 0 - 30 mg/L or the pH of the overhead receiver water is 5.5 - 7.0.

15 - 16. (Canceled)